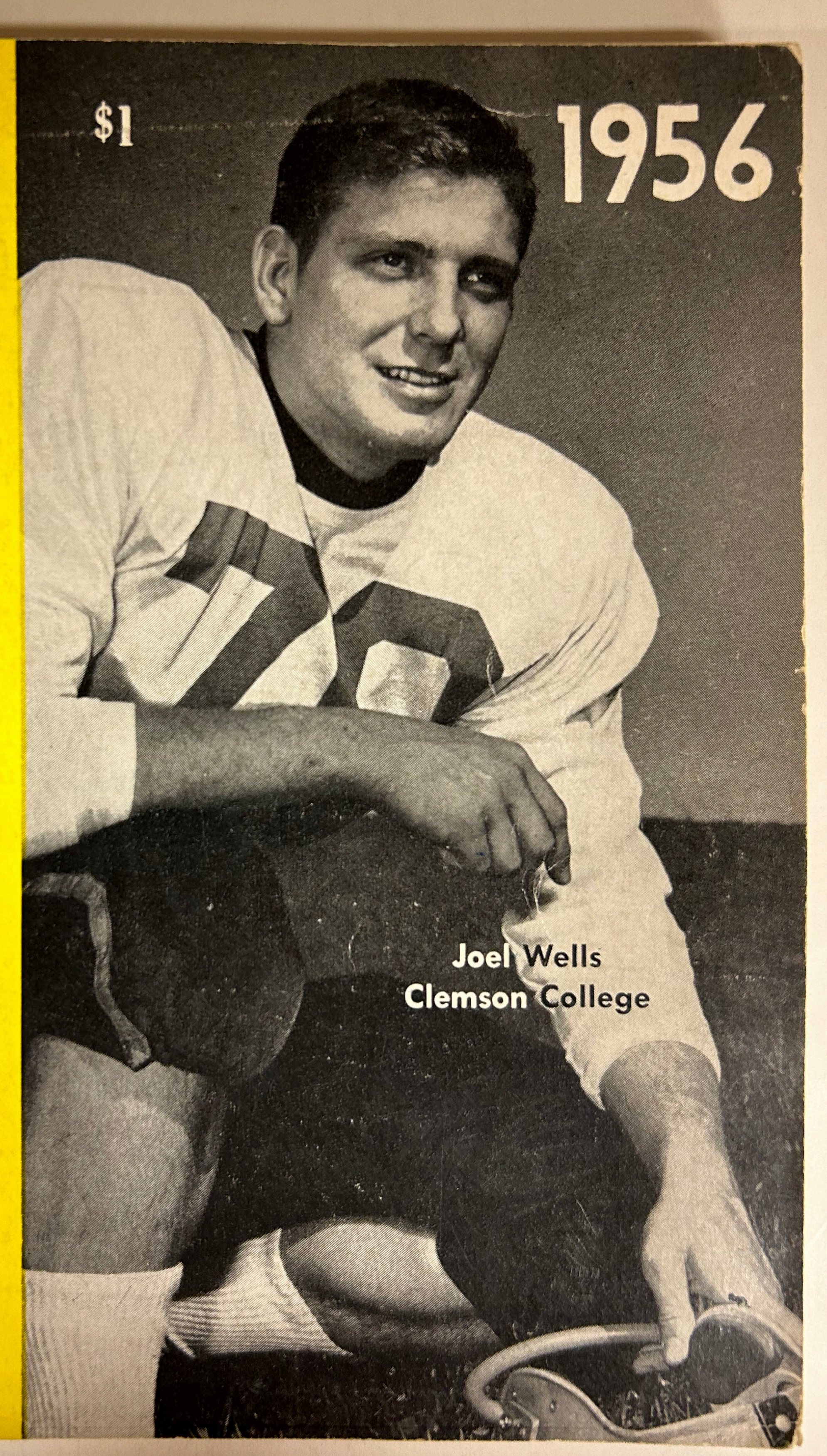
Official NCAA FOOTBALL Guide

$1

1956



Joel Wells
Clemson College

Brodie, is called as good as they come by his coaches.

This could be an explosive year in the power-packed South, but early selections must be Georgia Tech in the Southeastern, Maryland in the Atlantic Coast and West Virginia in the Southern.

At Tech, Bobby Dodd has more backs than he knows what to do with, led by quarterback Wade Mitchell, but must fill in a line spot or two.

Jim Tatum left Mont with plenty of everything at Maryland. And while West Virginia, which has all but outgrown the Southern Conference, will be without its two terrific tackles, Sam Huff and Bruce Bosley, it ought to be able to keep the situation well in hand.

But the three conferences are so loaded with fireworks that may be touched off on any given week-end, that no favorite will find it easy going.

Tennessee, as an example, could wreck a hope somewhere along the line. Duke and Georgia entertain the same thought.

The big independent, Miami of Florida, will once more be formidable.

In the Southwest, where the favorite almost never wins, defending champion Texas Christian is all ready to turn its phantom, Jim Swink, loose for another season. Then there is Texas A&M to consider, and Texas, too, which turned in a stunning performance in defeating A&M for the television audience late in the season. So if the conference race pursues its usual pattern, one of the other four teams will finish in front.

The Colorado Aggies are the choice a second time in the Skyline Conference, but here, too, the rivalry will be keener than ever. Utah, Wyoming and Denver are expected to provide the chief competition.

All in all, it has the makings of another autumn when Saturday's predictions become fodder for the wastebasket on Monday.

NATIONAL CHAMPIONS, 1924-1955

Oklahoma was the choice of the press association polls for college football's unofficial national championship in 1955, and the Sooners replaced Michigan as runner-up to Notre Dame in the composite ratings of the past 20 years.

The Associated Press poll of sports writers was originated in 1936 and the United Press poll of college coaches has joined in the fun since 1950. Both polls represent the combined opinions of observers in all sections of the country and have come to be the most popularly recognized bases for the mythical award.

Prior to the polls, the Rissman and Knute Rockne trophies, symbolic of the national title, were awarded annually from 1924 to 1936.

The national champions for all 32 years:

1955—Oklahoma
1954—Ohio St., UCLA
1953—Maryland
1952—Michigan State
1951—Tennessee
1950—Oklahoma
1949—Notre Dame
1948—Michigan
1947—Notre Dame
1946—Notre Dame
1945—Army
1944—Army
1943—Notre Dame
1942—Ohio State
1941—Minnesota
1940—Minnesota
1939—Texas A&M
1938—T.C.U.
1937—Pittsburgh
1936—Minnesota
1935—S.M.U.
1934—Minnesota
1933—Michigan
1932—Michigan
1931—So. California
1930—Notre Dame
1929—Notre Dame
1928—So. California
1927—Illinois
1926—Stanford
1925—Dartmouth
1924—Notre Dame

NATIONAL RATINGS, 1936-1955

In a composite picture of the press association polls for the past 20 years, Notre Dame emerges as the No. 1 team by a wide margin. Counting 10 points for each first place rating, 9 for second and so on, the Irish have accumulated 103 points to 65 for second-place Oklahoma. The 20-year leaders:

1. Notre Dame .103
2. Oklahoma ... 65
3. Michigan ... 62
4. Army 54
5. Tennessee ... 53
6. Ohio State .. 40
6. Minnesota .. 40
8. U.C.L.A. ... 39
8. Mich. State . 39
10. Alabama ... 31
11. California .. 30
12. Navy 29
12. Georgia Tech. 29
12. Maryland ... 29
15. So. California 25
16. Duke 24